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Press Release

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Town of Emmitsburg Receives Second Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

College Park, MD (October 15, 2018) – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that **Town of Emmitsburg** was one of 8 Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference last Friday in Annapolis, Maryland. Emmitsburg received its first Sustainable Maryland certification in 2015.

A detailed summary of Emmitsburg's sustainability Actions can be found in their 2018 Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Emmitsburg's accomplishments include:

- The Town has two solar fields that generate approximately 250,000 kilowatts/month. The Town's electrical use is now supplied by well over 95% renewable energy.
- The Mayor and Board of Commissioners approved the Town of Emmitsburg's Sustainable Procurement Policy for use by the Town staff. The policy requests town staff use sustainable purchasing practices when choosing vendors and supplies for the Town.
- Approximately 15 miles of natural surfaced multi-user trails for mountain bikers, hikers, bird watchers, and trail runners have been created as part of a stacked loop network in the Emmitsburg Watershed.
- Since 2012, Emmitsburg has maintained a small Community Garden with plots available to the residents of the town.

"We are honored to receive our second consecutive Sustainable Maryland Certified award," said **Emmitsburg Mayor Donald Briggs**. "Our green team worked very hard for the award and is very much looking forward to the challenges of receiving the award for a third time."

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, "This year's class of Sustainable Maryland Certified communities represents significant continued progress on sustainability issues, in small towns and large cities, from all across the state. The Green Teams,

elected officials, and municipal staff that have accomplished so much provide both inspiration and real-world examples for their peers to follow.”

The attached photo shows Emmitsburg Town Manager Cathy Willets with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference last Friday.

Also attached is Emmitsburg’s Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.

For detailed information about Emmitsburg’s sustainability initiatives, please contact Maddie Shaw, Town Clerk, MShaw@emmitsburgmd.gov, 301-600-6302

Sustainable Maryland Certification: To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth **a total of at least 150 points** (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions), and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/actions/>

The complete list of 2018 newly certified (denoted by *) and re-certified communities includes:

Town of Berlin (Worcester County; the very first municipality to be certified in the program in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

Town of Chestertown (Kent County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

***Town of Cottage City** (NEW!)

Town of Emmitsburg (Frederick County; first certified in 2015)

City of Laurel (Prince George’s County; first certified in 2015)

City of Mount Rainer (Prince George’s County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

Town of Poolesville (Montgomery County; first certified in 2015)

City of Rockville (**2018 Sustainable Champion**; Montgomery County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

Our 2018 Sustainability Champion: This year’s Sustainability Champion is **the City of Rockville** which amassed an impressive 535 points on their application, more than any other community in 2018.

A full report on each certified community’s Actions can be viewed here:

<http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/participating-communities/>

Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2018 (7th full year of the program):

- Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **35 (22% of Maryland’s municipalities)**
 - Total Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **72 (46% of Maryland’s municipalities)**
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About Sustainable Maryland: Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the **Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland** that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. **Sustainable Maryland** offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the **Maryland Municipal League, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Town Creek Foundation**, helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments. For more information about Sustainable Maryland: www.sustainablemaryland.com



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